

Judge Jeremy C. Daniel**Magistrate Judge Heather K. McShain****Random/Cat. 3****FILED
4/15/2025****BI****THOMAS G. BRUTON
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
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)
vs.) No.
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CEDRICK TAYLOR)
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COUNT ONE

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. At times material to the indictment:
 - a. The Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) was part of the United States Department of the Treasury and was responsible for, among other things, administering the tax laws of the United States, collecting income taxes, and issuing income tax refunds to eligible taxpayers.
 - b. Taxpayers who were entitled to a refund of federal individual income taxes could claim that refund either by signing and filing in person, by mailing, or by electronically filing an individual tax return, including a United States Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 (hereafter “Form 1040”).
 - c. The information that the Form 1040 required the taxpayer to provide included, but was not limited to, the taxpayer’s name and address, social security number, number of dependents, total income for the tax year, the amount of federal income tax withheld during the tax year, and the amount of tax due or refund

claimed. Depending on the circumstances and submissions of the particular taxpayer, various other schedules and forms also were required to be attached to the Form 1040.

d. Taxpayers were permitted to deduct from their taxable income certain expenses, including, but not limited to certain business expenses reported on Schedule C. In addition, taxpayers were permitted to claim certain credits on their Form 1040 that reduced their tax liability, including education credits.

e. The American Opportunity Credit was a tax credit available to taxpayers who paid qualified educational expenses for themselves or their dependents. The credit was a refundable credit, meaning that if the refundable portion of the credit was more than the tax owed, the excess would be refunded to the taxpayer. Taxpayers who qualified for the credit could claim the credit by completing Form 8863, which was required to be attached to the Form 1040.

f. Information contained in the Form 1040, including, but not limited to Form 8863 and Schedule C, was material to the IRS in determining tax due and owing, and issuing taxpayer refunds. After receiving this information, the IRS issued a refund to the taxpayer if there were no outstanding tax liabilities or other federally authorized deductions for the taxpayer on record with the IRS.

g. Defendant CEDRICK TAYLOR provided tax preparation services, including preparing tax returns, and filing and causing to be filed those tax returns on behalf of individual taxpayers with the IRS.

h. Defendant CEDRICK TAYLOR was also known by the names “Blaze” and “Blaze Taylor.”

2. While preparing tax returns, defendant CEDRICK TAYLOR presented himself as an income tax preparer and held himself out to clients as a person trained in and knowledgeable about the preparation and filing of federal income tax returns.

3. Defendant CEDRICK TAYLOR prepared and assisted in the preparation of individual tax returns on behalf of numerous taxpayers for the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

4. Defendant CEDRICK TAYLOR prepared and helped prepare tax returns that fraudulently overstated and misrepresented tax credits, deductions, and expenses in order to fraudulently reduce the taxpayers' tax liability and to claim tax refund amounts to which the taxpayers were not entitled.

5. Beginning on or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, did willfully aid and assist in, and procure, counsel, and advise the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service, of U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns (Forms 1040 with schedules and attachments), for the taxpayers and tax years set forth below. The individual income tax returns were false and fraudulent as to material matters, including that they reported business expenses on Schedule C that had not been incurred and/or claimed qualified education expenses that had not been incurred, when, as defendant TAYLOR knew, these statements were false and fraudulent.

| <u>COUNT</u> | <u>TAXPAYER(S)</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>TAX YEAR</u> | <u>FALSE ITEMS</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | DC | February 16, 2019 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 6 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 2 | DC | February 6, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 3 | DC | February 10, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 4 | DC | March 7, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 5 | DC | April 20, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 6 | EC and JC | March 18, 2019 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 6 (b) Schedule C (Entertainment), Line 31 |
| 7 | EC and JC | April 11, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C (Entertainment), Line 31 |
| 8 | EC and JC | March 10, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 9 | LC | April 14, 2019 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 17 (b) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 10 | LC | April 7, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 18c (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 11 | LC | April 20, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 12 | LC | March 9, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 13 | LC | March 16, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |

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| 14 | SC and JO | May 18, 2020 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 6 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 15 | SC and JO | April 22, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 18c (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 16 | SM | February 28, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 17 | FH | May 17, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C (Entertainment), Line 31 |
| 18 | KW | February 25, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 19 | DA | March 13, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 20 | DA | January 25, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 21 | DA | April 14, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 22 | BB | May 18, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 23 | BB | April 26, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 24 | BB | February 16, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 25 | FC | February 13, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Form 8863, Line 8 |
| 26 | FC | March 22, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 27 | FC | March 15, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 28 | FC | March 9, 2024 | 2023 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |

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| 29 | SW | January 28, 2019 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 6 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 30 | SW | January 27, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 31 | SW | February 13, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 32 | SW | January 26, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 33 | SW | January 24, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 34 | SW | February 4, 2024 | 2023 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 (c) Form 1040, Line 29 (d) Form 8863, Lines 22a and 27 |
| 35 | BW | February 8, 2019 | 2018 | (a) Form 1040, Line 6 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 36 | BW | February 2, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 37 | BW | February 13, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 38 | BW | February 6, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 39 | BW | January 26, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 40 | BW | February 3, 2024 | 2023 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 41 | NW | March 31, 2020 | 2019 | (a) Form 1040, Line 7b (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 42 | NW | March 5, 2021 | 2020 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 43 | NW | February 9, 2022 | 2021 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
| 44 | NW | April 5, 2023 | 2022 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |

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| 45 | NW | March 13, 2024 | 2023 | (a) Form 1040, Line 9 (b) Schedule C, Line 31 |
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In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

COUNT FORTY-SIX

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.

2. On or about January 29, 2019, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2018, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated on Form 1040, line 6, that defendant's total income was \$10,970, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FORTY-SEVEN

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.

2. On or about January 23, 2020, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2019, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated on Form 1040, line 7b, that defendant's total income was \$11,450, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FORTY-EIGHT

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.

2. On or about February 12, 2021, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2020, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated:

a. On Form 1040, line 9, that defendant's total income was \$8,012, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount; and

b. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that he was a student at Triton College with qualified education expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew he had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FORTY-NINE

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.

2. On or about January 18, 2022, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2021, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated:

a. On Form 1040, line 9, that defendant's total income was \$11,500, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount; and

b. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that he was a student at Triton College with qualified education expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew he had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FIFTY

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.

2. On or about January 18, 2023, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2022, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated:

- a. On Form 1040, line 9, that defendant's total income was \$17,200, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount;
- b. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that he was a student at Triton College with qualified education expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew he had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid; and
- c. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that his dependent was a student at Triton College with qualified education

expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew his dependent had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FIFTY-ONE

The SPECIAL MAY 2024 GRAND JURY charges:

1. The allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of Count One are incorporated here.
2. On or about January 16, 2024, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division,

CEDRICK TAYLOR,

defendant herein, willfully made and subscribed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 with schedules and attachments) for tax year 2023, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under penalty of perjury and filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which return defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant falsely represented and stated:

- a. On Form 1040, line 9, that defendant's total income was \$18,001, when defendant knew that his total income substantially exceeded that amount;
- b. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that he was a student at Triton College with qualified education expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew he had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid; and
- c. On Form 8863, lines 22a and 27, defendant falsely represented and stated that his dependent was a student at Triton College with qualified education

expenses in the amount of \$4,000, when defendant knew his dependent had not been a student at Triton College and that the education expenses reported on the return had not been paid;
In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

A TRUE BILL:

FOREPERSON

Signed by Michelle Petersen on behalf of the
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY